Title: Need for 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies.

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the year 2001, earmarked as the `Year for the Empowerment of Women' is coming to an end. Empowerment of women is empowerment of India. I would recall the assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister at the funeral of the late Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. The assurance given was that political empowerment of women would be assured by passing the Women's Reservation Bill that provides for 33 per cent reservation in the Parliament as well as in the State Assemblies.

Sir, I would like to request the Government to come forward and arrive at a consensus by keeping out all the contentious issues at the initial stage of enactment of this revolutionary legislation with all the political will at their command.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): Sir, I associate myself with her.